Intermedia Gallery Group is creating space *- page 4*

The Eastern Echo

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 | Volume 141, Issue 08 — Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

EMU Theatre kicks off season with fantastic 'Alice by Heart' weekend

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

EMU Theatre opened "Alice by Heart" on October 3. This play features Brookelyn Hannah as Alice and Gary Zelley as Alfred. The bond between these characters was beautifully performed.

This play follows a young girl who sook refuge in a London Tube station during WWII. She confronts her grief, loss, and love with her favorite book, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." This book takes her on an adventure that helps her cope with all the pain that she is experiencing.

Highs

This adaptation's main highlight was the students' acting; it was incredible. The emotions that Hannah portrayed through her character Alice showed the pain she was experiencing along with the confusion of being in a book. She was on an adventure with Alfred, the white rabbit, who helped her through her pain. He protected her, the bond that these characters had was strong.

The british accents that each student had were perfect, especially Zelley; he sounded exactly like a Brit. His performance was excellent, considering how he portrayed a rabbit who was stressing about time constantly. The singing duet between Hannah and Zelley was powerful; their voices were in sync the whole time.

Another highlight was Laney Bass's performance as the Queen of Hearts. She was powerful and portrayed the perfect angry queen. The song Bass performed was beautifully done. Her octaves were powerful, and it was the most catchy song, in my opinion.

Gavin Miller's performance as Duchess was hilarious. Their costume was great, considering how much it showed their personality. They had a strong performance that lightened up the theater.

Another highlight was the costumes. They were precisely as imagined, considering how similar the play is to the film "Alice in Wonderland." The costume for the Queen of Hearts was gorgeous, and Bass's makeup was beautiful. The background orchestra beautifully performed throughout the musical, adding much-needed emphasis.

Lows

The musical's lows were minimal. However, the main low was the storyline; it was confusing. It started with a girl worried about Alfred being sick and the nurse yelling at Alice. The storyline lacked background knowledge about Alice's past and how she got into the book. Other than the confusing aspects of the play, there were no other lows.

Verdict

The audience enjoyed EMU's "Alice by Heart" tremendously and was full of laughter throughout. This play was performed well, and the students' hard work showed. The EMU Theatre did an excellent job putting this play together with the costumes and the setting.

Rating: 8.5 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

Eagles get registered to vote in contest against CMU, WMU

Colae Eason
News Reporter

Eastern Michigan University has joined a voting competition against Central Michigan University and Western Michigan University from now until Oct. 21, the final day for eligible voters to register online in Michigan.

The goal of the competition is to encourage students and campus employees to vote in the upcoming November election by tracking voter registration across campus.

"We were reached out to by the Secretary of State and asked if we wanted to participate," Communication and Operations Manager of Engage @ EMU, Sam Carter said. "Of course, we said yes, it sounds like an absolute blast."

The competition's winner will receive special recognition from the Michigan Secretary of State's office for achievements in civic engagement.

"Eastern Michigan University is proud to participate in the Michigan Secretary of State campus voter registration challenge," President James Smith said in a video about the competition.

The video also displayed statements from Central Michigan President Bob Davies and Western Michigan President Edward Montgomery encouraging students of the universities to vote.

"We really hope the contest will encourage students not only to register to vote but to get out and vote as well," Carter said.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson described the event as a friendly competition between state campus rivals to register the most eligible students to vote and request their absentee ballots through the November election in the competition highlight video.

The competition is one of two college voter registration contests encouraged by the Secretary of State. Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University and Wayne State University will also compete against each other, according to Carter.

"It's really important that students and staff alike all get out there and get their voices heard," Carter said. "So that those who are elected can reflect the views and opinions of the communities they serve."

Students can find out more information about campus registration tables, voting events, and important dates regarding voter registration and the November election in the Voting at EMU tab on the school's website.

The university has been recognized for its achievements in student voter engagement during the 2022 midterm elections, including awards for highest voter turnout, highest voter registration, and most improved voter turnout in the Mid-American Conference.

"Eagles, Chips and Broncos get registered now, and let the games begin," Benson said in the video.

Students can register to vote using the QR below.

Meet local elected officials!
Learn What's on the ballot!
DOWN BALLOT DIALOGUE
A Night of Panels, Questions & Free Pizza
October 9th
Strong 100
5:30-7:00 PM
Enjoy pizza while you:
Have your voting questions answered.
Hear from local advocates and officials.
Learn what a millage is and why they matter.
Discuss the importance of voting down ballot.
vote@emu
engage@emu
The Eastern Echo
EASTERN VOTES

The Echo and nonpartisan partners host voting panel

Ameera Salman
Editor-in-Chief

The Eastern Echo has joined local nonpartisan nonprofits and organizations in the EMU and Ypsilanti community in an effort to educate voters.

Engage@EMU, the 501(c)3 arm of Eastern Michigan University, has helped with the bulk of the planning.

Attendees will have the opportunity to get registered, check their registration, learn how to change their voting address, and more.

The event will include free pizza and an expert panel on what will be on ballots this fall.

Guest will have the opportunity to hear from voting advocates, local elected officials, and more.

Whether voting in-person or by mail, everyone has the right to know what their choices are.

The event will take place from 5:30-7 p.m. on Oct. 9 in Strong room 100.

The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

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THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

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PICK UP A COPY

Print editions published Tuesdays from late August to early May are available in racks or on tables in all academic buildings on the EMU campus, and at dozens of businesses in the community.

Among those businesses are:

- Sweetwaters on Cross St
- The Wurst Bar
- Blackstone Bookstore
- and more!

Want to have copies of The Eastern Echo delivered to your Ypsilanti business? Email advertising@easternecho.com!

CORRECTIONS

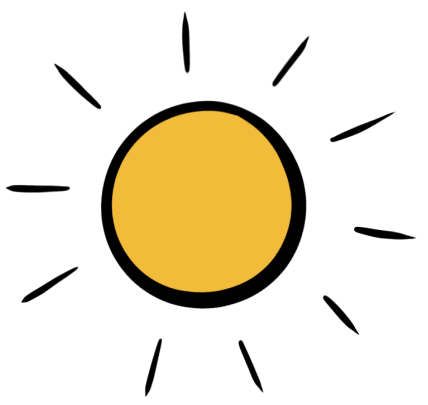
In the September 17 print edition of The Eastern Echo, the name of a student a part of Changing the Cycle was printed incorrectly. The correct spelling is Jesse John.

Weekly Calendar

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
MAJOR EXPLORATION FAIR STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 12 P.M. - 4 P.M. GUEST ARTIST LECTURE: CHIE FUEKI HALLE LIBRARY AUDITORIUM 5 P.M.	IT/STEM JOB & INTERNSHIP FAIR STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 1 P.M. - 4 P.M. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS: FEELING BETTER 101 WITH CAPS ZOOM 4 P.M. - 5 P.M.	OUT ON THE LAWN PRAY HARROLD OUTSIDE 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.	LIVE MUSIC: DAN DAN LAIRD & MARK COLLINS AT MASH MASH YPSILANTI 8 P.M. - 12 A.M.	COMING OUT DOWNTOWN DOWNTOWN YPSILANTI 11 A.M..	EMPOWERED: THE HIGH SCHOOL LITERARY ARTS AND CRITICAL CULTURE PROGRAM YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY, WHITTAKER BRANCH 1 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.,

Scoop's Forecast

66°	37°	Tuesday, Oct. 8	
65°	36°	Wednesday, Oct. 9	
65°	42°	Thursday, Oct. 10	
79°	55°	Friday, Oct. 11	
75°	51°	Saturday, Oct. 12	
69°	42°	Sunday, Oct. 13	
59°	35°	Monday, Oct. 14	



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

AI firearm detection system installation begins on campus

Gabriella Payeur
News Reporter

In Sept. 2023, The Eastern Echo reported on the launch of an AI-based firearm detection technology, ZeroEyes, being added to the security cameras around campus.

EMU Police Chief Lige said that they are now 10 months into the implementation of ZeroEyes onto digital cameras around campus. Installations occur weekly and he said there should be around 400 cameras online by the end of September.

Out of the 1,000 digital cameras around campus, 500 will have ZeroEyes technology. Chief Lige estimated that all 500 will be online in three to four months.

Several students have noticed this process and raised questions and concerns. One such student is Ace Bosquez, a journalism major, who said they didn't know that AI cameras were being installed.

Another was Anthony Thaxton, a creative writing major, who also didn't know about the cameras being installed. However, once he learned about them, he had some concerns. He is still wary of AI and the possibility of false detections. He said he thinks human verification will be vital in the appropriate use of these cameras.

In terms of detections, Chief Lige said several tests have already been conducted on these cameras since they were installed. These tests continue to be done every month around campus.

The EMU Department of Public Safety has tested these cameras with a black communication radio, a silver water bottle with red text, a cellphone in a black case, a class orange and blue Nerf gun, and a large industrial silver glue gun. None of these tests returned a false positive detection.

What did return a positive detection, Lige said, was a replica firearm. Every time this was tested, a detection occurred. The replica firearms were a pistol and a rifle.

"The only time we are getting detections is under a testing environment that we orchestrate, so, so far so good," Lige said.

There has only been one glitch that occurred over the summer, where there was a delay in notification of a detected firearm from several cameras. Working with the ZeroEyes company and the EMU IT Department, the cause was identified to be because the cameras needed some pixel adjustments and the lighting was poor. These were quickly fixed, the cameras were retested and the cameras worked the way they were intended to work.

As for hacking concerns, Lige said, "There's always an awareness [needed] that our security systems could get hacked and influenced by an outside entity."

However, he said, there are several systems in place for verification of any threat. First, all police officers get a picture of the suspect and the weapon sent directly to their phone, allowing for human verification.

Second, threats are verified with other cameras in the area. The ZeroEyes cameras do not store biometric information, so it is up to the Department of Public Safety to keep tabs on where the suspect is headed. Due to the 1,000 cameras on campus, Lige said that tracking a suspect would not be a difficult task. The amount of cameras combined with the tracking also allow for the tracking of changing appearances. If the suspect were to change appearance, a camera would capture that and an updated alert would be sent to first responders.

Third and finally, it comes down to the first responder who gets to the scene. Lige said it is ultimately their job to decide whether to disengage, engage and deescalate or engage and implement active protocols such as a shelter in place or ALICE training.

If it ever came down to these active practices, there are measures in place to ensure everything runs smoothly. The EMU Police do training with the nine other Washtenaw County Police Agencies so that they all have the same training and responses in order to act quickly and cohesively.

Additionally, the ZeroEyes cameras aren't the only safety measure being added around campus. Lige said locks on classroom doors in all 18 identified academic buildings on campus will be added. These additions started in 2023 and are on a one-building-per-semester schedule. So far, Pray-Harrold, Strong, Sill, and Mark-Jefferson have locks with Marshall being next up.

"The partnership that DPS has with students and their safety is very important to our mission," Lige said.

Intermedia Gallery Group is adding to a decades-long legacy

Shayla Mostyn
News Reporter

Intermedia Gallery Group, or IGG, works to be a safe space for all artists to express themselves. Hosting solo or joint shows with student artists, members of Intermedia Gallery Group invite all students, faculty, and staff to walk through different shows and see the world through different artists' points of view.

"A big part of what IGG is, is uplifting other students, especially their artwork and offering skills that would transfer to more professional art spaces outside school," Kristen Holsworth, one of IGG's three co-presidents, said.

Intermedia Gallery Group wrapped their first art show of the Fall 2024 semester and are gearing up for their next one. The show was called 'Break the Ice' and featured student-made zines.

"We chose 'Break the Ice' to be like 'hey, we are here and we are taking over this space,'" Holsworth said.

Founded in 1977, Intermedia Gallery Group currently has 34 members all working to help revitalize their gallery space located on the second floor of the Student Center, in order to bring a new sense of identity to the space. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, IGG was on the verge of losing the gallery space as there was only one member running the organization at that time.

"Art teachers were having us sign petitions ... It was the fear of having that student space taken away that was also a push for me," IGG Co-President Madison Cantrell said.

Due to the strong art community at EMU, students, faculty, and staff helped the gallery be able to continue as a space where all artists feel welcomed to spread their messages through their art.

Photo courtesy of Intermedia Gallery Group

"We bring individuality and we bring resilience to this community," Co-President Paris Stinson said. "I feel like artists are the first people to actually take a stand and actually make change."

"Inherently to be an artist is to be an activist, you can't do just one ... they co-exist in a lot of ways," Cantrell said.

Members of IGG are often able to combine their interests and create something that is unique to them. As all art forms are able to be featured, all students interested in art either as a career or even just as a hobby, are welcomed to join Intermedia Gallery Group. Holsworth emphasizes that IGG serves as a great stepping stone for the artists looking to submit their work and be able to see first hand the community's response to it.

At the beginning of each semester IGG holds a 'Call for Art' where artists can apply for the chance of having their work shown in the gallery. Aside from the student art shows, Intermedia Gallery Group also has an Annual Juried Student Show where a local artist comes to judge different art pieces submitted by students for the chance to win a cash prize. Stinson was the recipient of the latest AJSS award, which influenced her to join IGG and become a co-president.

"Just knowing someone had a reaction to my piece, especially a positive one , was really impactful," Stinson said.

While EMU offers many different arts-based organizations, one component of IGG that sets it apart is that it focuses on fostering a space, like having a gallery, for students to be able to show their work and be student run, and [see other] students work, Cantrell said.

While there is pressure to keep the gallery running after almost losing it, the co-presidents all feel up to the challenge, as they know that the gallery has become an important addition to the Eastern community.

"As long as we do it our way and not in a way that it is like we are trying to impress people," Stinson said. "That individuality, that art is, is the best way that we have been doing it."

Putting on shows for the EMU community has become a group effort, with everyone in IGG working together to make sure the artists have everything they need to have a successful show and make sure their art is reflected in the public's eye as the artists imagined it to be.

With IGG both decreasing and increasing in member size since it was first founded in 1977, the co-presidents reflect back and hope the founders would be able to feel pride in how they have been able to bring it back and revitalize not only the gallery space, but also the importance of what IGG means to the students.

"Everybody who is a part of IGG banded together. That is the best thing about IGG, is the community and I think [the founders] would be so proud of us." Holsworth said.

Cantrell expressed that the historical component of IGG adds meaning to the group.

"There are some art orgs that are newer or don't have a space..I think it is really valuable that we have a history and a presence, [and] to know we are building on that," Cantrell said.

The next show being put on by the Intermedia Gallery Group will start Oct 7th and run until Oct 21st. 'Structure and Terrain' will be featuring art by student artist, Lisse Williams. Followed by art shows 'Amanda by Amanda' by student artist Amanda Kroll and 'Black Girl Rising' by student artist Nia Crutcher. To see the shows put on by IGG, visit the student gallery located in the Student Center.

To stay updated on all shows, follow IGG on instagram @intermediaemu.

What's the move? Oct. 7-13

Hunter Johnstone
News Reporter

Check out these events happening on and around Eastern Michigan University's campus this week.

Career Paths in Science: A Local Perspective - Oct. 7

Receive a fresh perspective on the scientific career path with Avery Blanks in the Mark Jefferson Science Complex 171 from 4 to 5 p.m.

Homecoming Spirit Station - Oct. 7

Stop by the Spirit Station in the Student Center for a paint-by-number experience. The station is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Major Exploration Fair - Oct. 8

Learn about the 200+ major options as an undergraduate in this LBC credit-approved event. The fair is in the Student Center Ballroom from 12 to 4 p.m.

Guest Artist Lecture: Chie Fueki - Oct. 8

See the paintings of and see the complex process of Chie Fueki in the Halle Library Auditorium at 5 p.m.

IT/STEM Job & Internship Fair - Oct. 9

Find out about job opportunities within the STEM and IT fields. The fair is in the Student Center Ballroom and runs from 1 to 4 p.m.

Mental Health Awareness: Feeling Better 101 with CAPS - Oct. 9

See the introduction for CAPS and what they offer for mental health and to help raise awareness. The event is free to the public, LBC credit-approved, and on Zoom from 4 to 5 p.m.

OUT on the Lawn - Oct. 10

Hear the coming-out stories and experiences of peers on the lawn of Pray Harrold from 2 to 4 p.m.

Live Music: Dan Dan Laird & Mark Collins at Mash - Oct. 11

See Dan Dan and Mark of The Swift Brothers perform at Mash Ypsilanti. The performance runs from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Coming Out Downtown - Oct. 12

Ypsi Pride invites all to come out downtown to celebrate LGBT History Month. The event begins at 11 a.m.

EmpowerED: The High School Literary Arts and Critical Culture Program - Oct. 13

Learn about literary arts and make zines at the Ypsilanti District Library, Whittaker Branch. The workshop runs from 1p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Nu2u Again resale shop adds Ypsilanti location

Quanzelle Wyatt
News Reporter

Nu2u Again is the next resale shop to come into Ypsilanti. Nu2u is a nonprofit resale shop whose mission is to create employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Nu2u had their official grand opening on Monday September 6th from 2-6 p.m., and the store was busy with activity. Shoppers were browsing the current stock of items throughout the store, and a small line formed near the cash registers.

One of the cashiers happened to be the Allison Bradley, vice president of Nu2u Again. She was hard at work, and helping out at the registers to help with the line.

Her husband, Daniel Bradley, is the president of Nu2u Again. Daniel started working for the resale shop six years ago at the Saline location, and Allison started working there around three years ago.

Nu2u Again makes it a point to work with the community since they want to provide employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

"The beauty of an organization like ours is a disability can come at anytime. You know, you could be driving home one night and get into an accident, and you could become physically disabled. We want to help across all races, religions, whatever, any factor we want to just help out, it doesn't matter. Because at the end of the day, anyone could have a disability and it breaks all the other barriers that other organizations may or may not [have]," Daniel said.

Allison mentioned they had such good support from the community in Saline, and were eager to go to another community and build up that support again in Ypsilanti.

"In terms of Saline, we have a young adult program. They come four days a week over there and so they're the individuals that aged out of the school system age between 18 - 26," Daniel said. "So, they come four times a week getting those job skills, and helping them develop into being adults and being independent, and get that socialization and everything that comes with having a job."

They also have another program called Liberty Club. The club comes in once or twice a week and welcomes ages 26 and up. Nu2u donated to both in the past to help with funding, and other resources the might need. They also provide a scholarship in Saline every year to students that exemplify helping individuals with disabilities no matter their career interests.

The resale shop has been a launching pad for individuals with disabilities to find other places of employment.

Allison Bradley (middle), Daniel Bradley (right), and another employee prepare for the Nu2u Again Resale Shop grand opening. Quanzelle Wyatt / *The Eastern Echo*

"We're getting to this point especially in Saline where we've been around for a while that a lot of our individuals with disabilities that have been there for quite a few years are starting to use this as a launching pad," Daniel said. "You know ... like they've gotten the confidence, they've gotten the job skills, they've gotten that application, and so now they find what they want to do by working with us and now they've been finding their roles in whatever they choose.",

The couple shared their enthusiasm for joining the Ypsilanti community.

"So figuring out this community, we did join the chamber of commerce for this community. So that's a good way to make connections and just get to know people," Allison said. "We're definitely going to go to Ypsilanti schools which are close by; we're definitely going to reach out to them and try and see if we can have a relationship like we do [in Saline]."

Nu2u Again has a Facebook page, where they post a different sale every week. They also have everyday sales which are continuous. You can also look at their website if you're interested in learning more.

The donation process is also simple for those interested in donating to Nu2u.

"Just come around the back of the store, and just ring the bell and we'll help you out. It's as simple as that," Daniel said.

Nu2u partners with other organizations as well.

"Another local organization around here we help is House Intel Home. So, they help with low income families finding housing in the area and so a lot of the stuff that sits on the floor for a while that no one wants to purchase, we'll just give them to help fill the houses," Daniel said.

Donations can be made anytime between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Friday, or noon to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

Eastern Michigan sends first Ethics Bowl team to compete

Olivia Hendry
Staff Writer

Thanks to a grant from the UPSHER Institute for Civic Education, Eastern Michigan University will be participating in the Ethics Bowl for the first time at the collegiate level in November. The Ethics Bowl is a tournament put on by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics that encourages students to examine and discuss different ethical dilemmas in a debate style setting.

Students participating in the Ethics Bowl will be presented with a case and will work with a team to analyze it in different ethical frameworks. The cases cover a wide range of topics, with past conversations revolving around banned books, COVID-19 relief, health insurance, and more. Then, in competition, the students will be asked a series of questions by the moderator and will discuss said questions with another competing team.

The structure is similar to that of a mock trial or a debate team competition. However, a key difference lies in the content of the tournament- neither team is arguing for or against a certain side. They are all coming together collectively to discuss a topic and its ethical implications.

"The goal of an Ethics Bowl round is to move closer to the truth of some ethical issue," Professor Peter Higgins said, one of this year's coaches. "They're really working together to come to the best answer, rather than being pitted against each other in an opposing or adversarial way."

This means that while there is technically a winner and loser, the point of the Ethics Bowl is instead to encourage a unique way of looking at, and interpreting, different situations.

Not having the competitive aspect is something that appealed to current Ethics Bowl participant Aleksei Alward. Alward is majoring in philosophy, and is the vice president of the Philosophy Club. After being recruited by Kristopher Phillips, professor of Philosophy and co-coach alongside Higgins, Alward became intrigued by the unique and less aggressive format.

"I haven't done speech and debate in the past because of the combative aspect of it, it wasn't appealing to me. I liked when [Phillips] explained that it wasn't as combative, and it's more genuinely about adding on and having constructive critique," Alward said.

"It is still a competition, but they're not scored by who proved the other teams wrong," said Higgins. "They are scored on the quality of the contribution they make to having a productive, thoughtful, civil discussion that generates new and valuable insights about ethical controversies," Higgins said.

Those interested in joining the Ethics Bowl team can contact Higgins at phiggins1@emich.edu.

THE EASTERN ECHO CLASSIFIEDS

ROUTE MANAGER
The Eastern Echo is seeking help to deliver newspapers once a week. The part-time job involves four to eight hours a week. Available routes include walking on campus, and an off-campus route that requires transportation. Routes are to be run Monday afternoons and during the day Tuesdays. To apply, send a note of interest and a resume to Business Manager Aidan Bonney at advertising@easternecho.com.

MAGAZINE STAFF
Cellar Roots is seeking content editors and designers for the 2024-25 academic year. The team will produce and publish the 51st edition of the literary magazine, which includes both visual and literacy arts created by students Responsibilities: Acquire and curate a collection of student-produced works, coordinate with other student media groups, and organize the selection of content and publication of the magazine. To apply: By Oct. 15, 2024, send a resume and cover letter explaining the applicant's interest and ideas for the magazine to cellarroots@easternecho.com.

PAGE DESIGNER
Like creating interesting designs with photos and words? Know how to use InDesign, or want to learn? Join the team at The Eastern Echo! The independent student-operated news team is seeking page designers for the 2024-25 academic year. The position includes a minimum wage and takes from five to 10 hours a week. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and design work examples to advisor@EasternEcho.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Have an artistic bent? Like flexing those creative muscles? Know how to use Canva or Illustrator? Or want to learn to use graphics tools? Join the team at The Eastern Echo! The independent student-operated news team is seeking
graphic designers for the 2024-25 academic year. The position includes a minimum wage and takes from five to 10 hours a week depending on workload. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and design work examples to design@EasternEcho.com

LOST OR FOUND SOMETHING?
Use The Eastern Echo classifieds to message fellow students about items lost or found. Students using an emich.edu email to set up a classified account can advertise at no cost during the fall semester. Visit EasternEcho.com/classifieds to create an account and file your message.

STAY ON TOP OF CAMPUS NEWS
Whether on campus or home for a needed break, stay informed by subscribing to The Eastern Echo newsletter, or just bookmarking the website: www.EasternEcho. com. The Echo covers the university and Ypsilanti publishing online year-round and in weekly print editions during the fall and winter. Find more information at www.EasternEcho.com and check out the about page to sign up for the newsletter.

Photo courtesy of EMU Athletics

EMU's Savannah De Bock is the MAC Golfer of the Week

Hugh Thorp
Sports Reporter

The golf seasons at Eastern Michigan University are in full swing and Savannah De Bock (Ecaussinnes-d'enghien, Belgium) has earned golfer of the week honors in the Mid-American Conference for Sept. 23-29, 2024.

The sophomore shot rounds of 70-65-69 (204) and a total of -12 at the Red Sky Classic to take home the honors. Additionally, De Bock's total led all individual scorers at the event. The particular performance is her first win at Eastern Michigan.

The Belgium native bested the field by three strokes. Before coming to Eastern Michigan, De Bock played one season at the University of Georgia. She was on the All-Freshman team there last golf season.

Shooting a total of -12 over the three days, De Bock had an 18-hole day to remember in the second round. She shot a 65, which was crucial to her winning. The 65 also sets a school record for Eastern Michigan's scoring.

The course they played was the Fazio Course at the Red Sky Ranch and Golf Club, which is a par-72. De Bock still shot under par in the other two rounds.

De Bock's golfer of the week honor is the first time an EMU golfer has received this honor in two years since Alyssa DiMarcantonio received the award in 2022.

In the other tournament that the Eastern Michigan women's golf program has played this fall, the Leadership and Golf Invitational, De Bock also led Eastern Michigan, notching a two-under-par 214 throughout three rounds. She tied for eighth place individually in the tournament at the long and arduous Chambers Bay, which hosted the men's U.S. Open in 2015.

De Bock will look to improve upon her season when Eastern Michigan goes to the Sunflower State to play at the Marilynn Smith Sunflower Invitational hosted by the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

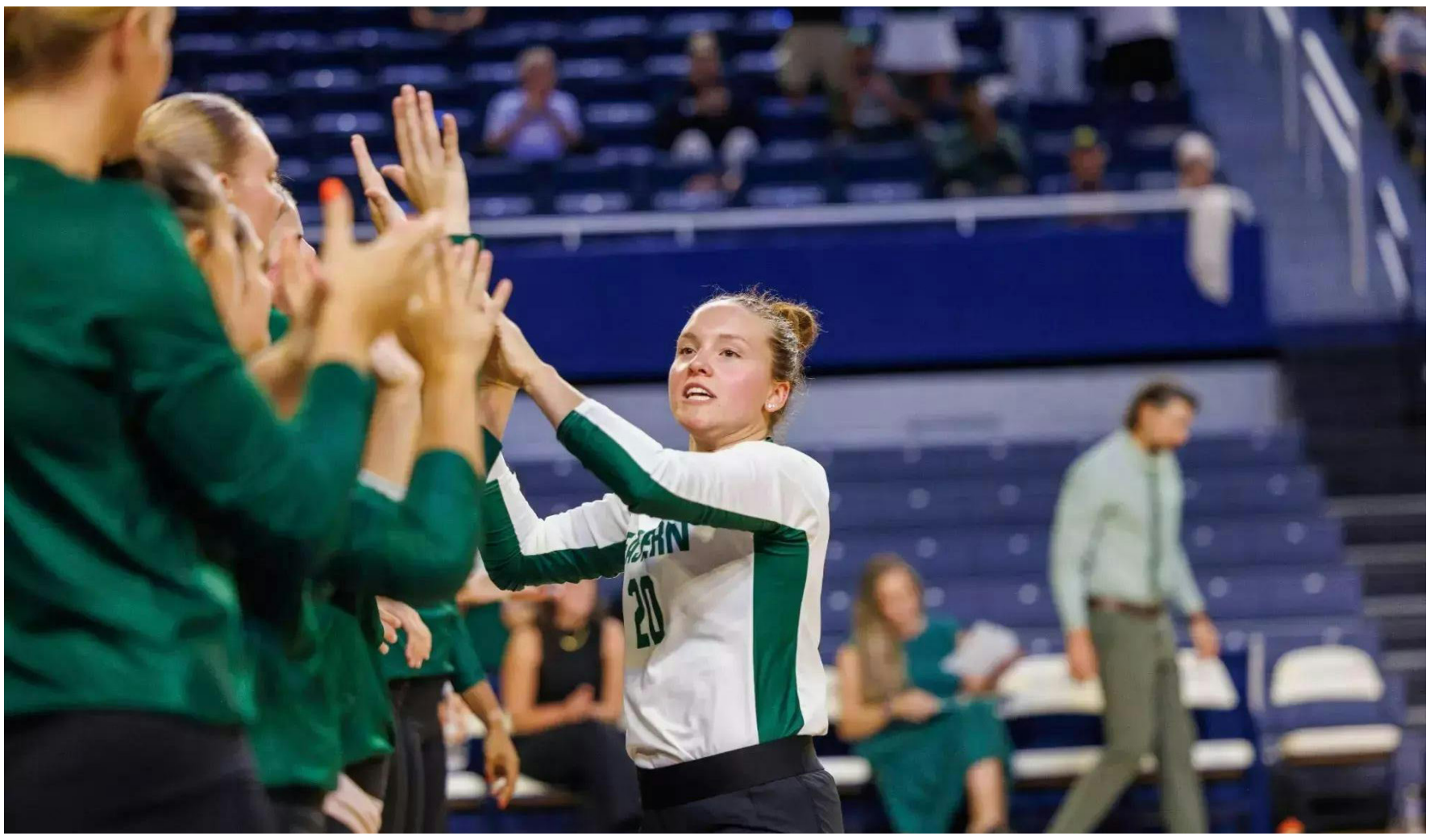


Photo courtesy of EMU Athletics

EMU's Hannah Blaney earns MAC Defensive Player of the Week

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

Eastern Michigan University volleyball student-athlete Hannah Blaney has been named the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Defensive Player of the Week, as announced by the conference on Monday, Sept. 30. This marks Blaney's first career Defensive Player of the Week honor and the second time the Eagles have earned this accolade this season. Freshman middle blocker Hatteras Welker claimed the award just last week, making it two consecutive wins for the program.

Blaney, a senior libero from Saline, Michigan, led the EMU defense in two key victories against Kent State University on Sept. 26-27. Over the weekend, Blaney recorded an impressive 50 digs, averaging 6.25 digs per set. In Friday's reverse sweep win, she set a career-high with 27 digs,ÄÎsecond-most by any player in the conference this season. This performance also brought her career digs total to 1,037, surpassing the 1,000-dig milestone. Blaney followed up with 23 digs in Saturday's sweep of Kent State, the highest dig total in a three-set match in the MAC this season.

Currently, Blaney ranks second in the MAC with 258 total digs, placing her 12th nationally. The Eagles, as a team, are 21st in the country for total digs, showcasing their strong defensive capabilities. With her stellar defensive play, Blaney contributed four assists, two aces and one kill over the two matches.

Up Next

Blaney and the Eagles will face Central Michigan University on Oct. 1 at McGuirk Arena in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. A win would give EMU its first 3-0 start in MAC play since 2010. The match will begin at 6 p.m.

Follow the Eagles

For more updates on Eastern Michigan volleyball and other sports, follow The Eastern Echo. Stay connected with the latest news and stories throughout the season.

Eagle Tips and Tales: Oct. 7-12

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

Eagle Sports Tips and Tales is back with an exciting lineup of Eastern Michigan University athletics events! From golf tournaments to volleyball matchups, here's what to look forward to in the first half of October.

Men's Golf at West Bay Collegiate Invitational

Kicking off the month, the EMU men's golf team heads to Estero, Florida, for the West Bay Collegiate Invitational on Oct. 6-7. This all-day event will test the Eagles against top competitors as they look to make their mark in this prestigious tournament.

Tennis at Indiana Invitational

Oct. 6, the tennis team will compete in the Indiana Invitational in Bloomington, Indiana, with match times yet to be announced. The team is eager to gain valuable experience and continue their fall season on a high note.

Soccer vs. Miami

Soccer fans can look forward to the EMU soccer team taking on Miami in Ypsilanti at 1 p.m. on Oct. 6. With home-field advantage, the Eagles will aim for a strong performance in this key conference showdown.

Women's Golf at Marilynn Smith Sunflower Invitational

The women's golf team heads to Lawrence, Kansas, for the Marilynn Smith Sunflower Invitational on Oct. 7-8. This two-day event is another excellent opportunity for the Eagles to display their skills and compete at a high level.

Tennis at ITA Midwest Regional

On Oct. 10-11, the EMU tennis team will be in Columbus, Ohio, for the ITA Midwest Regional. This major event will allow the Eagles to test their abilities against some of the best collegiate players in the region.

Soccer at Ohio

The EMU soccer team will travel to Athens, Ohio, on Oct. 10 for a 4 p.m. match against Ohio University. It will be a challenging road game as the Eagles face a formidable conference rival.

Volleyball at Bowling Green

The volleyball team continues their road stretch with a 6 p.m. match against Bowling Green on Oct. 10. This Mid-American Conference (MAC) contest will be crucial as the Eagles look to strengthen their standing in the league.

Volleyball at Toledo

The volleyball team will have back-to-back matches on the road, facing Toledo at 6 p.m. on Oct. 11. The Eagles must try their best to secure two crucial victories in Ohio.

Football vs. Miami

Oct. 12, the EMU football team will return to Rynearson Stadium to face Miami (Ohio). Kickoff time has yet to be announced, but fans can expect an intense MAC battle as the Eagles take on a tough RedHawks team.

Lacrosse at the University of Louisville

The EMU lacrosse team will travel to Louisville, Kentucky, on Oct. 12 to compete against the University of Louisville. The match time will be announced, but this will be a great opportunity for the Eagles to test their skills against strong opposition.

With so much action coming up, there's plenty to cheer for this month! Be sure to follow along and show your support for Eastern Michigan athletics! Stay updated with The Eastern Echo for the latest news, scores, and updates on all things EMU athletics.

'Joker: Folie à Deux' takes its viewers for fools

Frank Remski
Review Columnist

Director Todd Phillips has brought back his unconventional take on the Joker with the musical "Joker: Folie à Deux." The sequel to 2019's "Joker," it saw Joaquin Phoenix reprise his role as the Clown Prince of Crime, he was joined by his twisted soulmate, Harley Quinn, played by Lady Gaga.

Review

The movie saw Arthur Fleck, AKA the Joker, on trial for the crimes he committed in the first film. But at the same time, he had fallen in love with fellow Arkham patient Lee Quinzel, AKA Harley Quinn.

Highs

The previous film had excellent cinematography and acting from Phoenix, this sequel having been no exception. The often dark scenery made occasional use of a bright color palette, matching the Joker's iconic look. Phoenix's performance also proved great once again, balancing the drama and tragedy of his character.

The costuming was also excellent, especially in regards to Harley's wardrobe. The film created looks for these characters that emulated their usual appearances, but unique enough to stand out.

Arkham's dark side was on full display in this film, showing how Gotham's legal system didn't want true rehabilitation. This was an unfortunate reflection of how real life justice is often delivered.

Lows

The film's title translates to "madness of two" in French. One would assume this is referring to both Joker and Harley, suggesting they were equally important. However, this would be a mistake given Harley never once was allowed to be a true character. Rather the madness must have referred to the Joker and the audience who foolishly thought Harley would be a protagonist.

Harley is one of the most interesting characters in the DC mythos. Originally introduced in "Batman: The Animated Series," Harley was a psychiatrist who fell for her patient, the Joker. She gave up her life as a doctor to pursue crime. She is far more than a love interest for the Joker. She's a fearsome villain in her own right, a survivor of abuse via her relationship with Joker, and infectiously fun. She's a fan favorite for a reason.

But this was not the Harley seen in this film. This film's Harley was a manic pixie dream girl. By making her a patient from the beginning, she lost her riveting arc. Why spend time showing her go mad when she can begin mad? That's time needed for pointless musical numbers! Never once could she shine, her entire life and personality orbited Joker in a boring relationship, serving his also nonexistent character arc.

Harley and Joker did not even work on a musical level together. Phoenix's singing was offkey, unpolished, and outright bad, cementing the twistedness of his character. But Gaga's singing was powerful and beautiful. Now normally Gaga's talent is welcomed, but it didn't gel in the slightest with Phoenix, making their duets awkward and the movie's tone inconsistent. The musical aspect was pointless anyway, the songs didn't deepen any characters or plot points, they just slowed the pace down.

And like its predecessor, the film's depiction of mental illness was pointless at best and outright ableist at worst. Both film's forewent the typically fictionalized version of Joker's madness for real life mental illness, leading to some stigmatizing implications about mental illness being inherently violent and criminal. The one bright spot of this was at least the film acknowledged the justice system's issues with rehabilitation, but even then it didn't say anything particularly deep or provocative.

Verdict

The first "Joker" movie was an imperfect character study. It didn't quite bridge the gap between the classic villain and Arthur Fleck nor did it have much to say, but at least it actually cared to look into a character. "Joker: Folie à Deux" was a completely pointless addition that failed to let any characters grow, even the titular one.

While both films have missed the point of Joker by giving him an origin, the fact they screwed up Harley Quinn is a completely different feat given she had everything needed to make her interesting. For a movie about villain origins, this was a waste of Harley Quinn; for a musical, this was a waste of Lady Gaga; and for the audience, this was a waste of time.

Rating: 3 out of 10

Frank Remski is a film and theater reviewer for the Eastern Echo. He is majoring in media studies and journalism and minoring in public relations. He has worked for The Echo since summer of 2023 and has written both news stories and opinion pieces.

'Killer Heat' is shockingly captivating

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

"Killer Heat" was released on Sept. 26 on Amazon Prime Video. This film features Shailene Woodly as Penelope, Richard Madden as Leo/Elias, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt as Nick. It has a captivating murder along with a love triangle.

Review

This film takes place on a Greek Island and follows twin brothers, Leo and Elias, in a love triangle with Penelope. Then, Leo dies and Penelope brings in a private investigator with a complicated past to discover who the murderer is.

Highs

The highlights of this film are the intriguing plot and the fact that this murder concerns one of the twin brothers. To add context, it shows how these brothers became in a love triangle with Penelope through flashbacks. Their family is another intriguing aspect, considering how secretive and protective their mother is. There are plot twists throughout the movie that keep the audience engaged.

Woodley's acting as Penelope is significant because of her character's development throughout the movie. Her character is stuck in a situation with her husband, Elias, and feels trapped. Woodley portrays the emotions of the character remarkably well.

Nick Bali's inner monologue was another highlight as it showed his true thoughts. This gave the feeling of listening to a book; it showed the challenges that his character goes through within his mind. Joseph depicted his character's pain well and spoke Greek nicely throughout the film.

Another highlight was Madden's acting as twins Elias and Leo. He portrayed two completely different characters with opposite personalities. He did it well, considering how Elias is manipulative and the 'playboy' on his Greek Island. In contrast, Leo is sweet and shy regarding women, especially Penelope.

The last highlight is the setting of the film. It was in Greece, which was beautiful. The scenes showing different ruins and rocks, as well as the ocean were refreshing. The scenes were unique considering how Greece has different policies regarding the law than America.

Lows

The lows in "Killer Heat" were minimal. It revolved around Penelope's past with Leo; certain aspects were missing. It should have shown how the relationship evolved between Elias and Penelope and why exactly she chose him over Leo.

Another low was the lack of information about how the twins' father died and why they are so protective over their mother. Elias mainly displays protectiveness, which can be odd. If there had been more context behind the loss of their father, it could explain the protection of their mother.

In addition, the plot could be confusing at times because of the many flashbacks. It involved Penelope's past and Nick's past with his wife. This would show up when Nick has similar experiences with his wife to Penelope's experiences with Elias feeling trapped. It could be confusing to understand what happened and why Nick became a drunk.

Verdict

"Killer Heat" is worth the watch considering how intriguing the plot is and how it catches the audience off guard with the plot twists. It is a thrilling movie that involves a toxic love triangle.

Rating: 7.5 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

'Nobody Wants This' is full of sex and podcasts

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

"Nobody Wants This" was released to Netflix on Sept. 26, 2024. Although it is a show for mature audiences only, it is full of love and humor. It stars Kristen Bell as Joanne and Adam Brody as Noah Roklov.

Review

The series focuses on Joanne, an agnostic who has a podcast with her sister Morgan (Justine Lupe) that discusses failed relationships and sex. When Joanne attends a party for her friend Ashley (Sherry Cola), she meets Noah Roklov, a rabbi. Meeting him turns her life around.

Highs

"Nobody Wants This" has many highlights. Joanne and Morgan's relationship is one. Their sisterly bond is strong, and they are there for each other no matter what, which shows how much Joanne values Morgan. Joanne's outfits are another high. They show her personality well and indicate her humorous, confident, and strong character. Her fashion choices are business casual with a hint of boldness.

Another high is the chemistry between Joanne and Noah; it is perfect. They cannot stay away from each other even though his religion does not allow him to be with someone non-Jewish. Even though he is a rabbi, he does not let that stop him from pursuing a relationship with Joanne. His character is brave and confident. He has to fight for the one he loves, and his struggle to reconcile his faith and his feelings adds a deep meaning behind his story with religion.

Furthermore, the show portrays Judaism well. It shows the different elements of being a rabbi, and the characters celebrate special holidays. Brody also does a great job speaking Hebrew.

The friendships in this series are another highlight because of all the comedy. For instance, Joanne's friend Ashley is funny and brings humor and lightheartedness to the show. The banter between Joanne and the Jewish wives connected to Noah is also excellent.

Moreover, the series shows how relationships can evolve over time. The relationship that evolves the most is between Joanne and Noah's sister-in-law Esther (Jackie Tohn). They are enemies at the beginning but slowly become friends.

Noah's awkward and hilarious brother Sasha is another high. His oblivious brother act adds a comedic aspect to the show. His friendship with Morgan is also significant, especially since they are not supposed to be friends. Their friendship underscores the importance of platonic relationships, and the banter between them is exciting and engaging.

Lows

There are few lows in "Nobody Wants This." However, Noah's mother is one low, considering how conservative and strict she is. She is controlling of her son and does not accept someone outside their religion.

Another low is that in one episode, Noah does not stand up for Joanne against his mother during brunch. This is a low because if he genuinely cares for Joanne, he should stick up for her.

One more low is the lack of background knowledge about Noah's ex-fiancee and how their relationship evolved. How things ended between them remains confusing, and Noah seems to have no remorse.

Furthermore, the other Jewish wives (particularly Esther) acting like mean girls is a low. Esther's actions go out of hand, and she can be a little too mean.

Verdict

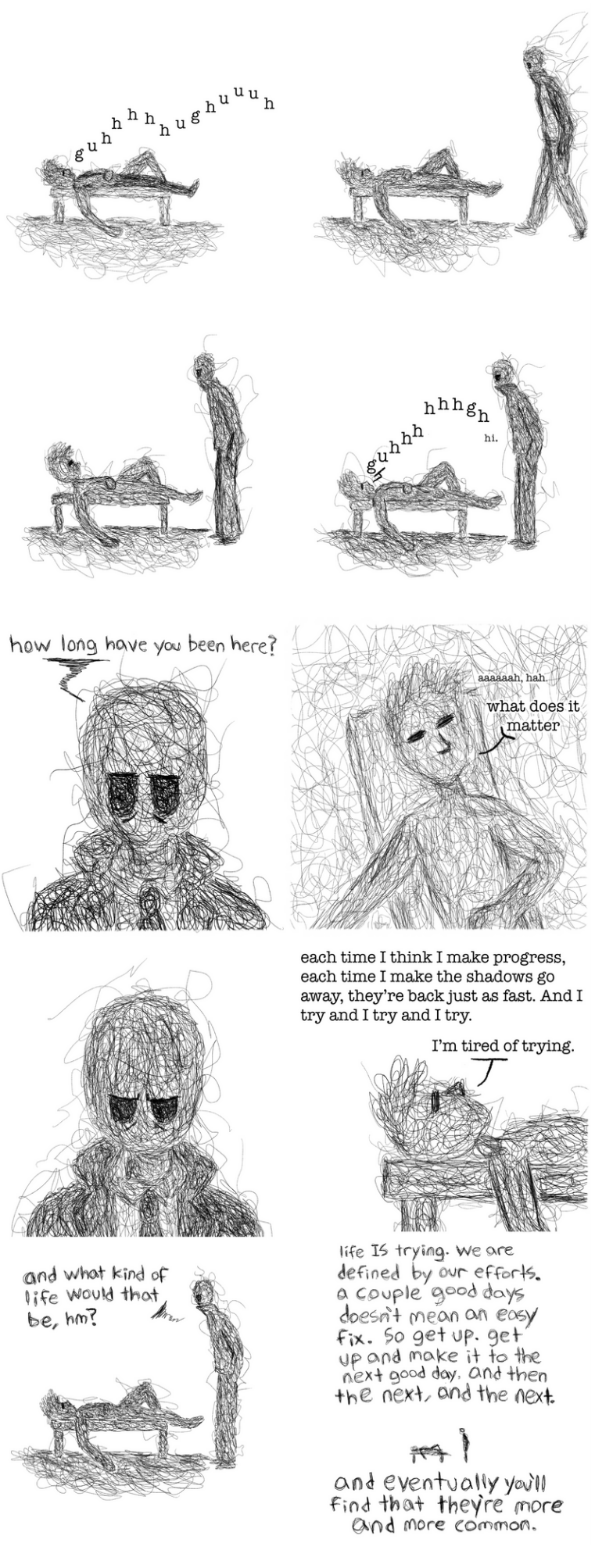
Considering the comedy and chemistry between Joanne and Noah, "Nobody Wants This" is worth watching. It is full of sex and podcasts that are sure to entertain the audience and leave them laughing.

Rating: 8 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

Burnout: Truck Delivery
FunkyL0af
Comic Artist

Getting Up
Gideon the Ghost
Comic Artist


guhhhhhughuuuh
how long have you been here?
aaaaaah, hah.
what does it matter
each time I think I make progress, each time I make the shadows go away, they're back just as fast. And I try and I try and I try.
I'm tired of trying.
and what kind of life would that be, hm?
life IS trying. We are defined by our efforts. a couple good days doesn't mean an easy fix. So get up. get up and make it to the next good day. and then the next, and the next.
and eventually you'll find that they're more and more common.

Q + A: Part one
FunkyL0af
Comic Artist

BURNOUT
BY FUNKYLOAF
Q+A
Q: WHAT ARE EVERYONE'S NAMES AND MAJORS/JOBS?
I'M SEBASTIAN. I'M A GRAPHIC DESIGN MAJOR. I WORK AT A SAND-WICH SHOP.
I'M KOI. I'M A LIFEGUARD, BUT I'M IN COLLEGE FOR MUSIC.
I'M COLE. I'M A DESK ATTENDANT. UNDECIDED MAJOR.
DM @Funkyl0af ON INSTA IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

Targeted Ads
Rylee Curley
Design Chief

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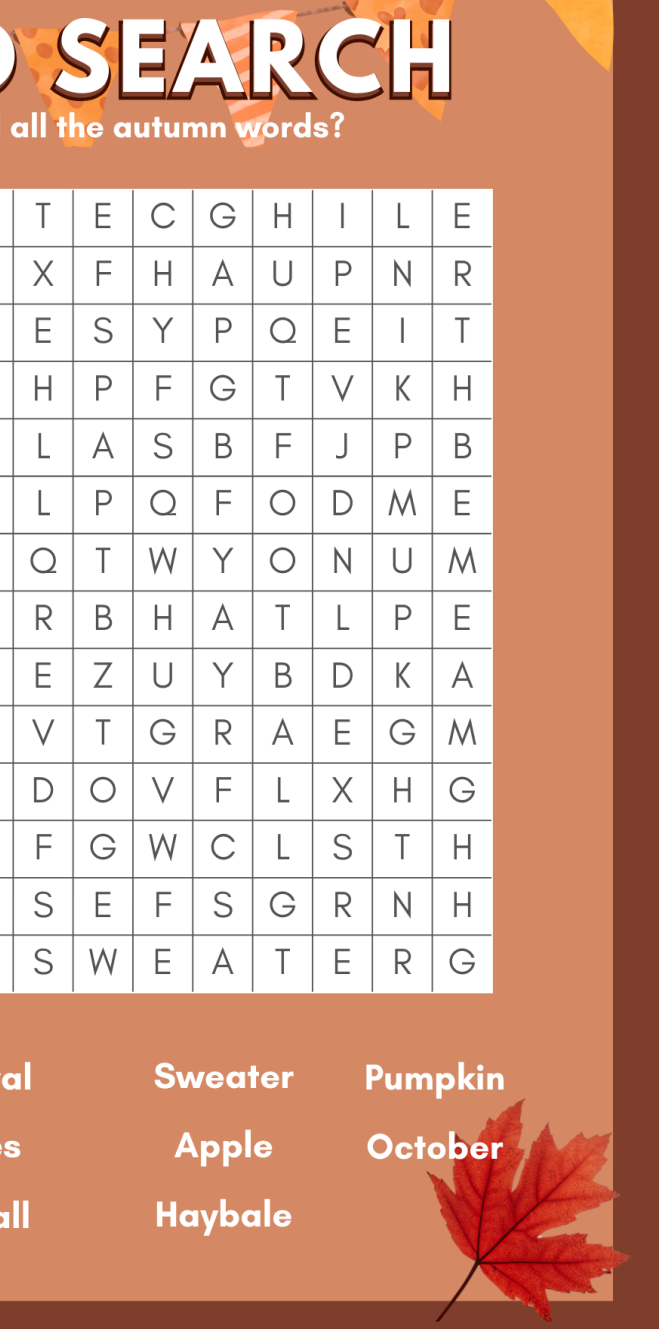
WORD SEARCH
Can you find all the autumn words?
F E C R L V T E C G H I L E
Q D J E H L X F H A U P N R
X Z L E A V E S Y P Q E I T
L V N T R G H P F G T V K H
E O F B V K L A S B F J P B
K C I D E R L P Q F O D M E
N T M Y S A Q T W Y O N U M
I O G D T V R B H A T L P E
R B X F S H E Z U Y B D K A
G E F N C L V T G R A E G M
L R H I P W D O V F L X H G
T Q O P X Q F G W C L S T H
J L A V I T S E F S G R N H
R O T O G I S W E A T E R G
Harvest
Festival
Sweater
Pumpkin
Cider
Leaves
Apple
October
Football
Haybale

'Alice by Heart' opening weekend

"Alice by Heart" was performed in the Judy Sturgis Hill Legacy Theate from Oct. 3-6. Photos by Max Taylor.

The whole cast of "Alice by Heart" during last dress rehearsals.

Isaac Cantrell starring as Dr. Butridge performing "Brillig Braelig" in EMU's production of Alice By Heart in the Legacy/Sponberg theater.

Laney Bass starring as the Queen of Hearts in EMU's production of Alice By Heart.

The cast of Alice By Heart performing "Your Shell of Grief" in the Legacy/Sponberg Theatre.

Brookelyn Hannah stars as Alice in EMU's production of Alice By Heart.

Find more photos on our website!